WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A method for providing search results, comprising:

receiving a voice search query from a user;

deriving one or more recognition hypotheses from the voice search query,

each recognition hypothesis being associated with a weight;

5   constructing a weighted boolean query using the recognition hypotheses;

providing the weighted boolean query to a search system; and

providing results of the search system.

2.   The method of claim 1 wherein the deriving one or more recognition

hypotheses includes:

10   using one or more of a language model, phonetic dictionary, and acoustic

models to derive the recognition hypotheses.

3.   The method of claim 2 further comprising:

updating one or more of the language model, phonetic dictionary, and

acoustic models using the voice search query.

15   4.   The method of claim 1 further comprising:

identifying a language model based on at least one characteristic

associated with the user, and

wherein the deriving one or more recognition hypotheses includes:

using the identified language model to derive the one or more recognition hypotheses.

5.   The method of claim 1 wherein each recognition hypothesis includes one

5   or more terms, and

wherein the constructing a weighted boolean query includes:

determining a length of a shortest recognition hypothesis,

pruning a length of each recognition hypothesis up to the length of the shortest recognition hypothesis,

10   determining a length of a longest pruned recognition hypothesis,

selecting a number of recognition hypotheses based on one or more query parameters,

determining term weights, and

forming a weighted boolean query.

15   6.   The method of claim 5 wherein the query parameters include the determined length of the longest pruned recognition hypothesis, a value representing a total number of terms to be included in a query, and a value representing a proportion of new terms added from a first recognition hypothesis to a second recognition hypothesis.

7. The method of claim 5 wherein the query parameters vary by user or user group.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the providing results of the search system includes:

adjusting a ranking of the results of the search system based on the weights.

5 9. The method of claim 1 wherein the providing results of the search system includes:

organizing the results based on the weights.

10. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

discarding, prior to constructing the weighted boolean query, those

10 recognition hypotheses associated with a weight below a threshold value.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein the weighted boolean query is a weighted OR-query.

12. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

refining the weighted boolean query based on the results of the search

15 system.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein the refining includes:

determining a quantity of results related to each recognition hypothesis,

and

5   discarding recognition hypotheses having no results.

14. The method of claim 12 wherein the refining includes:

determining a quantity of results related to each recognition hypothesis,

and

adjusting the weight associated with the recognition hypothesis based on

10   the quantity.

15. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

detecting compounds in the one or more recognition hypotheses, and

wherein the constructing a weighted boolean query includes:

constructing the weighted boolean query using the recognition

15   hypotheses and the detected compounds.

16. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

detecting compounds in the results of the search system;

refining the weighted boolean query based on the detected compounds;

providing the refined weighted boolean query to the search system; and

providing the new results.

17.   A system for providing search results relating to a voice search query from a user, comprising:

5   means for receiving the voice search query from the user;

means for deriving one or more recognition hypotheses from the voice search query;

means for associating a weight with each of the recognition hypotheses;

means for constructing a weighted boolean query using the recognition

10   hypotheses;

means for providing the weighted boolean query to a search system; and

means for obtaining results from the search system..

18.   A computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling at

15   least one processor to perform a method for providing search results, comprising:

receiving a voice search query;

deriving at least one recognition hypothesis from the voice search query, each recognition hypothesis being associated with a weight;

constructing a weighted boolean query using the at least one recognition hypothesis;

20   providing weighted boolean query to a search system; and

providing results of the search system.

19.   A server comprising:

a memory configured to store instructions and at least one of a language

model, a phonetic dictionary, and acoustic models; and

5   a processor configured to execute the instructions to obtain a voice search

query, derive one or more recognition hypotheses from the voice search query, determine

a weight for each recognition hypothesis, construct a weighted boolean query using the

recognition hypotheses, provide the weighted boolean query to a search system, and

present results of the search system.

10   20.   A method for generating a search query, comprising:

receiving one or more recognition hypotheses, each recognition hypothesis

being constructed from a voice search query;

determining a length of a shortest recognition hypothesis;

pruning a length of each recognition hypothesis up to the length of the

15   shortest recognition hypothesis;

determining a length of a longest pruned recognition hypothesis;

selecting a number of recognition hypotheses based on the length of the

longest pruned recognition hypothesis;

determining query term weights; and

forming a weighted boolean query out of each term position in the selected recognition hypotheses.

21. The method of claim 20 wherein the pruning includes:

5   removing noise words from the recognition hypotheses.

22. The method of claim 20 wherein the selecting includes:

identifying a number of recognition hypotheses based on the determined length of the longest pruned recognition hypothesis, a value representing a total number of terms to be included in a query, and a value representing a proportion of new terms

10 added from a first recognition hypothesis to a second recognition hypothesis.

23. A server comprising:

a memory configured to store instructions; and

a processor configured to execute the instructions to receive one or more recognition hypothesis, each recognition hypothesis being constructed from a voice

15 search query, determine a length of a shortest recognition hypothesis, prune a length of each recognition hypothesis up to the length of the shortest recognition hypothesis, determine a length of a longest pruned recognition hypothesis, select a number of recognition hypotheses, the number being based on a value representing the length of the

longest pruned recognition hypothesis, determine query term weights, and form a

weighted boolean query out of each term position in the selected recognition hypotheses.

24.   A computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling at

least one processor to perform a method for generating a search query, comprising:

receiving at least one recognition hypothesis, the recognition hypothesis

5   being constructed from a voice search query and having one or more terms;

determining a length of a shortest recognition hypothesis;

pruning a length of each recognition hypothesis up to the length of the

shortest recognition hypothesis;

determining a length of a longest pruned recognition hypothesis;

10   selecting a number of recognition hypotheses, the number being based on

the length of the longest pruned recognition hypothesis;

determining term weights; and

forming a weighted boolean query out of the selected recognition

hypotheses.

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